

Message Text

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16

ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY SOFIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9181

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: BEXP, BU

SUBJECT: 1975 PLOVDIV FAIR

USDOC FOR BEWT/ABRAHAMSON; STATE FOR EUR/EE/ANDREWS;

USIA FOR IEE/SHIRLEY

REF: A) STATE 266127; B) SOFIA 2185; C) SOFIA 2276

1. WOULD GREATLY APPRECIATE FULL REPORT ON WHERE WE STAND REGARDING PARTICIPATION IN PLOVDIV FAIR. AS WASHINGTON AWARE (REFTELS A AND B) WE HAVE OUTSTANDING NOTE (NOVEMBER 18) FROM MFA WHICH REQUIRES AN ANSWER. RESPONSE NEEDS ONLY TO INDICATE THAT WE ACCEPT INVITATION TO PARTICIPATE.

2. WE HAVE HAD NUMEROUS INFORMAL INDICATIONS THAT US WILL EXHIBIT AT PLOVDIV BUT WE HAVE NO OFFICIAL INSTRUCTIONS WHICH WE NEED SO WE MAY RESPOND TO GOB (REFTEL A).

3. USDOC OFFICER PLANAGAN ARRIVED TODAY AND HANDED US COPY OF MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN USDOC AND USIA. THIS DOCUMENT INDICATES NUMBER OF THINGS WHICH CAUSE CONCERN AND OF WHICH WE WERE NOT PREVIOUSLY INFORMED:

A) THE SIZE OF THE PAVILION IS TO BE 1000 SQ METERS

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WHICH WE STRONGLY ADVISED AGAINST IN REFTEL C;

B) COMMERCE IS TAKING ONLY 220 SQUARE METERS OF EXHIBIT SPACE WHICH ABOUT EQUALS THE 1974 SPACE IT HAD IN SIDE DOME -- IN OTHER WORDS JUST BOOTHS; AND

C) US EXHIBIT WILL HAVE TO SHARE BUILDING WITH WHOMEVER FAIR AUTHORITIES DETERMINE. (FYI: BUILDING 33 IS PERMANENTLY ASSIGNED TO ROMANIANS. SPACE TAKEN IN OTHER AVAILABLE LARGER BUILDINGS IS ASSIGNED BY FAIR AUTHORITIES. DEADLINE FOR SPACE APPLICATIONS IS MARCH 31; IN EARLY APRIL FAIR MANAGEMENT BEGINS ASSIGNING SPACE.)

4. IS UNSIGNED COPY OF AGREEMENT HANDED US BY PLANAGAN FINAL? IF SO, WE ARE VERY DISAPPOINTED FIRST BECAUSE OF THE SIZE AND SECONDLY BECAUSE WE HAVE NOT EVEN BEEN KEPT INFORMED OF WASHINGTON'S PLANNING. BUDGETARY PROBLEMS WE CAN UNDERSTAND.
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